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San Juan.

[Blomington (Ill.) Paragraph]

We had, some days ago, a report by telegraph, that the Emperor of Germany, as umpire between Great Britain and America in the dispute relative to the title to the Island or Islands of San Juan, had given his decision in favor of the United States. The report proved to be (as was to be expected) premature, the case not yet being decided either way. It is now modified to a report that he is *expected* to decide it in our favor.

The question at issue arises, as our readers generally know, under the treaty of 1846, which settled, or was supposed to have settled, an ancient controversy as to the rightful territorial possessions of the two nations on the Pacific coast. That controversy had existed about as long as our nation had, and had its roots in treaties negotiated between European powers life time previous to our Declaration of Independence, and still earlier in the early Spanish and English discoveries on the Pacific coast. We claimed the country up to "Fifty-four forty or eight;" Great Britain claimed it down to the Columbia river, and was willing to take it all, down to the Mexican boundary of (then) forty-two degrees.

After being the subject of a vast deal of diplomatic palaver, and of a wonderful amount of eloquence in Congress and elsewhere, and after seriously threatening a war through the intemperate handling of it by President Polk and his backers, the matter was arranged by the treaty of 1846, adopting the parallel of forty-nine as the boundary to the Straits of San Juan de Fuca, thence following said straits to the ocean.

It must have been some twelve years, more or less, after this supposed final settlement, when some of the officers of the two countries in that far away corner of the earth kicked up a fresh row, by attempting to occupy the little island of San Juan, which lies in the said straits, and about which it was consequently possible to get up a dis-

sension as to which side of it the main channel ran on. There was once more some bloody talk, but the matter was arranged by permitting a joint occupancy.

So the "Colfax party," when they went "across the continent" in 1865, found on the part of each government "a captain's and corporal's guard of soldiers on the San Juan,"—only distinguishable, probably, one from the other by the blue and red of their uniforms, and fraternizing daily, doubtless, over a game of cards and a whiskey bottle. And that state of affairs continues, we suppose, even to the present day.

By the treaty of Washington (of last year) the Emperor of Germany is appointed arbitrator to decide which channel shall be considered the boundary,—his decision to be final and without appeal. Everybody (from America, at least) who has seen the ground, says that our claim is manifestly the correct one, and there is good reason to expect that the arbitrator will so decide. But the matter in controversy is too small for either party to gripe over, let the decision be as it may. The only important point is to have it decided. The little island, for its actual value, is a fair counterpart of the territory which formed the object of contention in the raid upon "the Polack" by "the nephew to old Norway, Fortinbras":

"We go to gain a little patch of ground, That hath in it no profit but the name; To pay five ducats, live, I would not farm it; Nor will it yield to Norway or the Pole." A ranker rate, should it be sold in tea;

—

SOMETHING ABOUT TEETH.—Why, says *Chamber's Journal*, do some people's teeth come out more readily than others? The reasons for this are probably many. About the middle of the last century Peter Kalm, a Swede, visited America, and wrote sensibly about what he saw. He observed a frequent loss of teeth among settlers from Europe, especially women. After discussing and rejecting many modes of explanation, he attributed it to hot tea and other hot beverages; and came to the conclusion that "hot feeders lose their teeth more readily than cold feeders." Mr. Catlin, who some years ago had an interesting exhibition of Indian scenes, dresses, weapons, etc., noticed that North American Indians have lost teeth more easily than the whites. He accounts for the difference in this strange way: That the reds keep the mouth shut, whereas the whites keep it open. The teeth, he says, require moisture to keep their surfaces in good working order; when the mouth is open, the mucous membrane has a tendency to dry up, the teeth lose their needed supply of moisture, and thence come discolouration, toothache, tooth decay, looseness, and eventual loss of teeth.

"I never wrote a letter to your wife," recurred one.

"You be," yelled the other; "your letter yesterday was handed to me. My wife is in Birmingham, and wrote a sweet letter to you. Lipnuck's noble motto: 'First come first served,' placed it in my hands"—and a moment after at it they went.

I hurried on.

I had just entered the P. O. when a woman rushed into the building.

"You villain!" she yelled, knocking my hat to the floor, and burying her eagle talons in my hair. "You gave my letter to Mag Easton, the biggest old sinner in town. And she's telling everywhere that I've been writing to a married man."

Well, I now can't boast of as much hair as I could a week ago!

Surely had my persecutor left when a crowd rushed into the office. The Methodist preacher headed it. I think he swore as he crossed the threshold.

"Wilson!" he yelled, "you gave my letter to Bird Lyre and he's blowing everywhere that I've got a wife in New York and another in Maine."

"Kill him! kill him!" yelled those behind him.

I saw a dozen fists and clubs nearing me and I retreated.

"Hang the scoundrel!" cried the women, and I feared that the command would be executed.

I went through the window, and now I am in another town.

I am an ex-P. M. now, and a chip whose motto ain't "First come first served" stands as the goal of my late ambition.

My brief P. M. Ship has not been unproductive of results. That Methodist preacher has left his charge, and a New York woman is hunting him.

Twenty-six divorcees stare our next court in the face, and through my brief field career, nine men walk on crutches, and four women have spoiled faces.

And I? Why, my cranium is hairless, and I dare not go back to Skulldown on pain of death.

My ambition is satisfied now, and I have discarded that motto, "First come first served." It don't work in a post-office.

I wouldn't be a P. M. again for all the benzine in the world.

THE LANGUAGE OF FRUITS.—Apple, discord; pear, marriage; plum, wealth; gooseberry, simplicity; elderberry, seniority; fig, defiance; sloe, tardiness; crab, sour temper; date, chronology; plantain, growth; prune, retrenchment.

Keeping a Post-Office.

From the earliest period of recollection I've had a desire to keep a Post-office, or have the P. O. keep me. For years I have toiled for the "posh" of P. M., and last week I succeeded. But now I write after my name, ex P. M.

I'll tell you how it came about. The postmaster here resigned, and, with the aid of a graveyard recommendation, I succeeded him. It is nobody's business if I did rob the tombstones for names for my petition; and I can't see why the relatives of the defunct chaps won't quit throwing it up to a fellow.

Well, I wrote P. M. after my name. Mrs. Lipnuck embraced me with the tenderness of a she-bear when I rushed into the room waving my petition over my head, and my appointment brought sundry other hugs. I was a happy man.

Mrs. L. and I sat up till midnight writing my name with P. M. after it.

Oh, it looked grandly. I wouldn't have swapped it for Pres. LL. D. or A. B.

The next day I entered upon the discharge of my duties, and yesterday Uncle Samuel discharged me.

Immediately upon his successor

(which was me) being qualified, the ex P. M. left, and I was left alone. The mail came, and I distributed it thus wise. My motto has always been "first come first served," and I acted upon it to the best of my knowledge. I gave a letter to each caller as long as they lasted, and then I commenced on the papers.

Wife said the thing would set like a charm. Under the old regime some people never got a letter, while now the first person in the office after the distribution of the mail, would get the big, fat, fatted letter that came.

The idea was original, and I prided myself on its invention. The Lipnuck girl was ever fairie.

The morning following "mail day" I left my house for the post-office—the attainment of long cherished ambition. As I turned the corner I discovered two well-known citizens about to test the virtue in clenched hands.

"I never wrote a letter to your wife," recurred one.

"You be," yelled the other; "your letter yesterday was handed to me. My wife is in Birmingham, and wrote a sweet letter to you. Lipnuck's noble motto: 'First come first served,' placed it in my hands"—and a moment after at it they went.

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A peaceful conscience and a contented mind are the principle elements of happiness. The cross of Christ, and the promise of God, these and no Christian should rest short of them. Anxiety about life sometimes leads from the Lord of life; live near Jesus and cast your anxieties upon him.

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Music the Expression of Character.

In every musical school, too, there is that other capacity to be recognized which is to be noted in every spoken language. The personal character of the writer displays itself in the works of a great composer as distinctly as those of a writer in ordinary prose language.

The peculiarities of the man Mozart are as clearly revealed in his music as in his letters and in the records of his life. It is the same with Beethoven; the same with Mendelssohn; the same with Haydn.—In Handel's writings there is to be found the expression of every human passion; but it would be idle to pretend that the tenderness, the sweetness, mingled joyousness and sadness, which are almost always present in combination in Mozart, are to be found prominent in the universally-gifted Handel, who, even in his lightest moods impresses us with a sense of force and power.

It may seem, perhaps, a whimsical notion; but yet it is hardly extravagant to add that in Handel, as in Shakespeare, we seem to be in company with a prosperous man. That the two were prosperous in the trade of money-getting, and wonderful to add, as theatrical managers, is a fact which everybody knows, and which ought ever to be enforced on the attention of those prosaic people who imagine that there is a sort of incompatibility between the gifts of genius and a capacity for business.

However, this much, I think, cannot be denied, that as nobody ever

would imagine, from their work, that either Shakespeare or Handel were unfortunate, melancholy men, nobody

would ever imagine that Beethoven was the reverse; or, again, that Webber was a thriving, jovial man of the world, or that Rossini waged a fruitless struggle for bread and for health. In the great Sebastian Bach's writings, too, I see the revelation of the peculiarities of his history as distinguished from that of his great contemporary. Fiery passions, with their conflicts, find no expression in any of the works of the quiet, contented, domestic musical director of Leipzig. Even in the most jubilant and triumphant bursts and climaxes in his Mass in B minor—the noblest mass ever written, and by a Protestant, too,—the clear, bright, genial, and self-passed nature of the man is still manifest, and he goes on pouring forth his streams of brilliant, interlacing harmonies with a fertility and a sense of enjoyment that bespeaks at once a mind at ease and an imagination as exuberant as it was powerful and well-instructed. Altogether, it seems to me as impossible to deny that musical sound is a voice speaking from the mind, as the written styles of Addison and Macaulay, and the spoken style of Johnson, were the natural products of the peculiarities of their several characters.—*Forthright Review.*

High Notes.—In the "Magic Flute," Christian Nilsson sings above the staff. The youngest of the sisters, Sesto, with a compass of three octaves and a half, reached the same note.

Catalina had the same wonderful compass, but pitched a third lower. The highest voice on record is that of Lucretia Ajuzwi, whom Mozart heard at Parma. With a voice as pure as a flute she ascended to triple c, trilling on the d above. A Madame Becker, who as

tasted St. Petersburg in 1823 reached the same note by accident.

We find, says the Springfield (Ill.) Journal, the above in an exchange; and we will add that the highest voice on record is not the one mentioned.

Dr. Mark, in his "General Musical Instruction," testifies to having heard a girl of twelve years reach the "triple c" or four lined c, the seventh space above the g-clef—a major third above the c mentioned, with clearness and purity of intonation; and her lowest note was the little c—fourth space below the g-clef—making a compass of four octaves.

Jenny Lind's highest note was the three-lined f—the same as Nilsson's, and Madame Milibran (Garcia) sang f sharp. But it must be remembered that the pitch has risen since the days of those great singers.—*The Folio.*

Perhaps those that have experience can tell, and perhaps it would be to your interest to ask someone that knows, where the Rich and Rare Dress Goods, those Ladies' Hats that are the fashion—brought from Mrs. C. Levy's—those Elegant S. of Ladies' Fans, and those New Style Skirts that appeared to such advantage over the High Line Ladies' Boots, manufactured at Portland, Donegan & Gilligan's, Portland, Oregon, of all of which you had such a lavish display by the Park County ladies at the Oregon State Fair. Perhaps, gentlemen, you would like to call and examine for yourself those Elegant Fitting Suits of Gent's Clothing, while I show you a Fine Assortment of Gent's Furnishing Goods. And when it comes to Yankee Notions, Fancy Goods, Jewelry, Fine Tobaccos and Cigars, Groceries of all Descriptions—last-named strictly at Portland prices—my customers bear witness of the Excellence and Cheapness.

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M. M. ELLIS, Proprietor.

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ASA SHREVE.